

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A CCD driving system comprising:

a CCD driving circuit that outputs a driving signal for driving a CCD;

a timing generator that generates and outputs a pulse signal for driving said CCD driving circuit;

a voltage regulator that supplies a preset power supply voltage to said CCD driving circuit and said timing generator;

an output voltage setting circuit that is connected to said voltage regulator to adjust an output voltage of said voltage regulator;

a switching element that is used to connect an output voltage setting terminal of said voltage regulator to a ground via a predetermined resistance; and

a controller that controls an on/off state of said switching element, said controller switches said switching element to one of the on and off states so that the output voltage of said voltage regulator is reduced to a predetermined voltage which is lower than the preset power supply voltage, the predetermined voltage and the preset power supply voltage being functions of resistance values of the output voltage setting circuit,

wherein said timing generator is configured to hold the pulse signal supplied to said CCD driving circuit at a ground level when the output voltage of said voltage regulator is lower than a first voltage which is lower than the preset power supply voltage and higher than or equal to the predetermined voltage.

9. (Original) The CCD driving system according to claim 8,

wherein said controller turns off said switching element so that the output voltage of said voltage regulator is set at the preset power supply voltage for enabling said CCD driving circuit and said timing generator, and turns on said switching element so that the output voltage of said voltage regulator is reduced to the predetermined voltage lower than the preset power supply voltage.

10. (Original) The CCD driving system according to claim 8,

wherein the predetermined voltage is substantially equal to a reference voltage of said voltage regulator, the reference voltage being lower than an operating voltage of said CCD driving circuit and said timing generator.

11. (Original) The CCD driving system according to claim 8, further comprising a monitoring system that monitors said CCD driving circuit to determine whether said CCD driving circuit is in a normal operating condition or in an abnormal operating condition,

wherein said controller turns on said switching element when said monitoring system determines that said CCD driving circuit is in the abnormal operating condition.

12. (Cancelled)